

Rivers & Trails 2003



National Park Service

Northeast Region

New England, New York
& Northern New Jersey



2003 Conservation Successes in New England, New York, and Northern New Jersey

Working with more than 105 communities, we helped achieve results during the year.

Build a trail

50.9 miles of trail created
7 new trails established
8 existing trails improved
8.4 miles of trail improvements

Care for a river

16 river restoration projects completed
30.5 miles of river improved
62.3 acres of river frontage protected
7 site enhancements on rivers

Green your community

1 new park and recreation space created
46.5 acres of new park and public space protected or improved
\$6,048,000 leveraged for our projects
39 organizations established or enhanced

Some highlights this year included:

- ◆ The largest National Trails Day event in Maine, on the Kennebec-Messalonskee Trails
- ◆ 3 new canoe launches created on the Bronx River, and a new access point on the Harlem River
- ◆ 2 obsolete dams removed from rivers in New Hampshire
- ◆ 945 youths in 6 cities involved in Groundwork community projects

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as *Rivers & Trails*, works with community groups and local and state governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

On The Cover: The "Great Hudson River Paddle." Eight historic lighthouses are exploring ways to encourage learning and visitation by creating a Hudson River Lighthouse Trail. [Photo by Kenneth Allen]



Rivers & Trails

Helping to move your idea into action

We work with you to figure out the best fit for *Rivers & Trails* assistance with your project. Each project is unique, requiring its own recipe for success. We may use a variety of strategies, along with our experience, to help you figure out the best way to make your project happen. And we're always looking for new and creative ways to get results, combining *planning* with *doing*.

Some ways we might work together include:

Create a vision, goals, and on-the-ground strategy for your project

- ◆ Make a vision map
- ◆ Develop an action plan for your river or trail conservation project
- ◆ Reach out through workshops or events to build community support
- ◆ Build a model trail segment or restore a section of riverbank and get on-the-ground conservation started

Develop local capacity to get things done

- ◆ Learn to partner with other organizations
- ◆ Attract new volunteers and supporters
- ◆ Learn from the experience of other groups like yours

Get on-the-ground results

- ◆ Create trail designs or river conservation plans through intensive community workshops
- ◆ Identify and secure funding and resources to implement your project
- ◆ Develop management and maintenance guidelines
- ◆ Help organize events such as work days, ribbon-cuttings, treks and demonstration projects



Since 1916, the National Park Service has championed parks and the preservation ethic by managing our nation's precious natural, cultural and recreational resources. Today, a variety of programs enable the Park Service to share its expertise and resources with local communities, grassroots groups, civic organizations, and state and local governments to help them preserve and enjoy the special places that are essential to healthy communities. Please contact the *Rivers & Trails* staff person for your state (see back cover) to discuss how we can help you build a trail, care for a river, create a park, or green your community.

Steve Golden
Rivers & Trails Program Manager
Northeast Office, Boston

Conservation Success Stories

Build a trail ♦ Wurtsboro D&H Canal Linear Park, New York

"Expert guidance from *Rivers & Trails* helped us recognize the value of bringing other volunteer resources into our project, and it has resulted in a true community initiative. We've worked with the Historical Society and met a wealth of interested local people. Our new trailhead kiosk & information center was built by volunteers from the Wurtsboro Renaissance Committee. Without the resolve of local leaders and the generous guidance of the NPS, our project would still be struggling to get off the ground."

- John Lavelle, Chair of the Town D&H Canal Linear Park Commission



Build a trail ♦ Shoreline Greenway Trail, Connecticut

Who would have the audacity to propose a 25-mile trail through four coastal towns bounded by Long Island Sound, extensive saltwater marshes and intersected by seven rivers, Route 1, Interstate 95, Amtrak high-speed trains and home to 100,000 residents? Retired newspaperman, Joe Marshall, that's who.

In just two years, Joe recruited a nucleus of believers, who became a steering committee that is now a non-profit corporation with a board of directors and hundreds of members. Along the way, they have lined up support from every town hall, organized events to explore possible trail segments, and enlisted the help of *Rivers & Trails*.

In one year of assistance, *Rivers & Trails* staff have added a focus on opening an inaugural trail segment in each town and the basics of environmentally-sensitive trail design.



Care for a river ♦ Cold River Dam Removal, New Hampshire

In September 2003, after nearly three years of planning and public involvement, a major improvement to the region's freshwater environment was completed in just six days. A diversion dam that for 30 years had blocked fish passage on the Cold River in Walpole, New Hampshire was removed and 1/4 mile of instream habitat was restored. All agree that the result is a positive impact for nearly every species in the River and a blueprint for similar projects on other New Hampshire rivers.

"This project dramatically improved trout and Atlantic salmon habitat in the Cold River. It wouldn't have happened without help from the National Park Service and our other partners."

- Bill Koury, President of the Coldwater Fisheries Coalition



Green your community ♦ Bronx River Cement Plant, New York City

The Bronx River Alliance is growing and multiplying. Helped along by *Rivers & Trails* and a broad partnership, the Alliance's Ecological Management and Restoration Program has helped local community groups and youth to work with scientists and technical experts to design and implement a variety of restoration projects along the Bronx River. Here, in an abandoned cement plant that is one day slated to become a City park, young people tend thousands of native plants that will be used for streambank and saltmarsh restoration along the River.



Build a trail ♦ Oyster River Bog Trail, Maine

"When we began working with the *Rivers & Trails* Program, The Oyster River Bog Association had complex and seemingly unresolvable trail issues and no strategy for dealing with them. The steady guidance, patience, and practical insight from *Rivers & Trails* provided that focus and enabled us to achieve real results - the kind of success that volunteer groups like ours need when the issues seem too big to handle. Had it not been for them, I think we would have acquiesced to the challenges without realizing our potential to make a difference."

- Jennifer Atkinson, Oyster River Bog Association



Projects 2003 *New England, New York and Northern New Jersey*

Connecticut

1. Housatonic hydroelectric project (Falls Village, Bulls Bridge, Stevenson, Rocky)
2. Mianus River Park Trail Restoration
3. Scantic River Watershed Association
4. Shoreline Greenway Trail

Maine

5. Allagash River Assistance
6. Androscoggin River / Livermore project license amendment
7. Kennebec Messalonskee Trails
8. Kennebec River / Anson, Abenaki & Indian Pond hydroelectric projects
9. Oyster River Bog Conservation & Trail System
10. Presumpscot River Greenway
11. Rangely Region Trail Development
12. Saco River / Bar Mills hydroelectric project
13. Sanford Trails
14. Underpass Trail
15. Penobscot River (West Branch) / Great Northern hydroelectric project

16. Penobscot River (Lower) / Orono, Stillwater, Great Works & Veazie hydroelectric projects
17. Presumpscot River hydroelectric projects (Multiple projects)

Massachusetts

18. Assabet River / Clock Tower Place hydroelectric project (prev. Mill Pond)
19. Connecticut River / Holyoke hydroelectric project
20. East Branch Trail, Westfield River
21. Massachusetts Safe Routes to Schools
22. Merrimack River / Lowell hydroelectric project
23. Mystic Link
24. Westfield River / Russell Fall hydroelectric project

New Hampshire

25. Bearcamp River Watershed
26. Black Brook River Restoration
27. Cold River Fish Habitat
28. Farmington Downtown Greenbelt
29. Merrimack River Conservation project
30. Merrimack River hydroelectric project (Amoskeag, Hookset, Garvins Falls)
31. Winnepesaukee River Trail

New Jersey

32. Groundwork Elizabeth
33. Liberty - Water Gap Trail

New York

34. Binghamton Waterfront Trail
35. Bronx River Greenway
36. Brooklyn Bicycling Center
37. Erie Canalway Trail
38. High Bridge Greenway
39. Hoosic River hydroelectric project (Johnsonville, Schaghticoke)



40. Hudson River Lighthouse Trail
41. Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail
42. Hudson River / Mechanicville hydroelectric project
43. Hudson River / Sacandaga hydroelectric projects (EJ West, Palmer, Feeder Dam, Sherman Island, Spier Falls)
44. Hyde Park Trail Extension
45. Kinderhook Creek / Stuyvesant Falls hydroelectric project
46. Mohawk River / School Street hydroelectric project
47. Niagara River / Robert Moses hydroelectric project
48. Onesquethaw River Restoration
49. Oswegatchie River / Newton Falls hydroelectric project
50. Oswego River hydroelectric project (Varick, Minetto, Fulton)
51. Raquette River / Higley & Piercefield hydroelectric projects
52. St. Lawrence River / FDR hydroelectric project
53. Salmon River / Macomb hydroelectric project
54. Saranac hydroelectric projects (Cadyville, High Falls, Kents Falls, Mill C)
55. Saw Mill River Protection
56. Seneca River Water Trail
57. Tusten Trail
58. Wurtsboro D&H Canal Linear Park





Rhode Island

(no projects in 2003)

Vermont

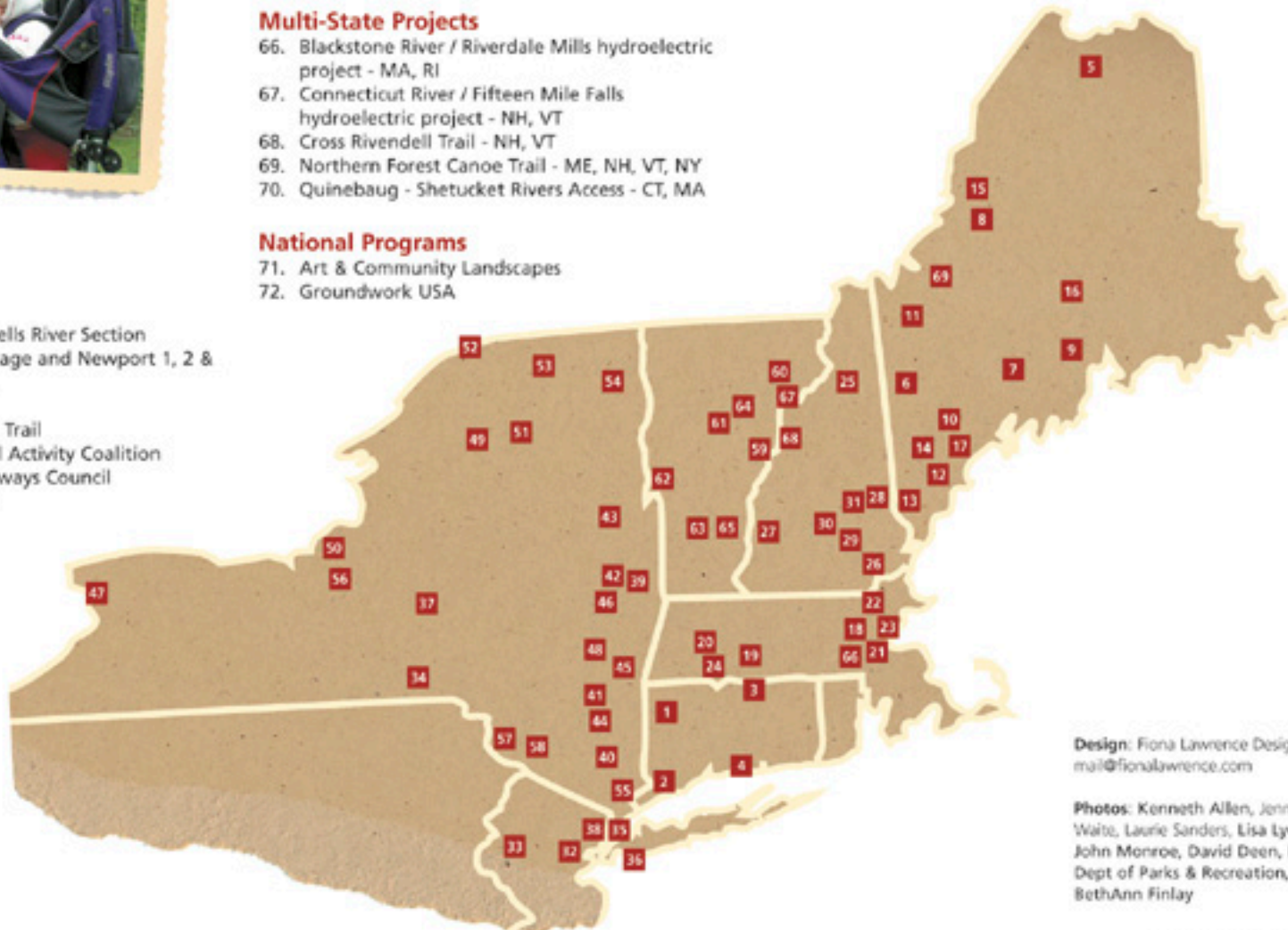
- 59. Cross Vermont Trail / Wells River Section
- 60. Clyde River / Barton Village and Newport 1, 2 & 3 hydroelectric projects
- 61. Mad River Greenway
- 62. Mt. Independence ADA Trail
- 63. Rutland County Physical Activity Coalition
- 64. Vermont Trails & Greenways Council
- 65. Woodstock North Path

Multi-State Projects

- 66. Blackstone River / Riverdale Mills hydroelectric project - MA, RI
- 67. Connecticut River / Fifteen Mile Falls hydroelectric project - NH, VT
- 68. Cross Rivendell Trail - NH, VT
- 69. Northern Forest Canoe Trail - ME, NH, VT, NY
- 70. Quinebaug - Shetucket Rivers Access - CT, MA

National Programs

- 71. Art & Community Landscapes
- 72. Groundwork USA



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For more information:

Visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/rtea. You can learn more about our program, and find a full range of helpful resources for community conservation projects.

Contact the *Rivers & Trails* staff person for your state for more information, or to discuss how the National Park Service may help with your project.

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